

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 /069 W

-----053842 030537Z /10

R 021500Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2938

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: ZULULAND UNIVERSITY DEAN OF STUDENTS (AND INKATHA  
SECRETARY-GENERAL) RESIGNS

REF: (A) DURBAN A-29; (B) DURBAN 255

1. DR. SIBUSISO BENGU, ZULULAND UNIVESITY DEAN OF STUDENTS  
AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE INKATHA MOVEMENT, RESIGNED HIS  
UNIVERSITY POSITION JUNE 1 BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THE UNIVERSITY  
ADMINISTRATION WAS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO HELP STUDENTS  
AND BECAUSE BLACK RECTOR A.C. NKABINDE INSISTED HE VIOLATE  
CONFIDENCE AND "DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF STUDENTS WHO HAD COMPLAINTS".  
BENGU'S RESIGNATION FOLLOWS A SERIES OF CAMPUS INCIDENTS WORSENERD  
BY COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND NKABINDE. THE  
LATEST INCIDENT, WHEN STUDENTS STAGED A RALLY AND BOYCOTTED  
CLASSES IN PROTEST AGAINST NKABINDE'S EXPELLING OF A NUMBER OF  
PREGNANT STUDENTS (REF B), WAS RESOLVED ONLY AFTER BENGU'S  
INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, NKABINDE CONTINUED TO TAKE A HARD  
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LINE ON STUDENT PROTESTS AND FREQUENTLY REFUSED TO MEET STUDENT  
DELEGATIONS TO DISCUSS GRIEVANCES, LEADING TO INCREASING CAMPUS  
TENSION. ON JUNE 1, THE STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)  
REQUESTED ANOTHER MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PREGNANT STUDENTS AND  
OTHER ISSUES. NKABINDE REFUSED TO MEET THEM AND, IN A WRITTEN  
REPLY, BANNED ALL MEETINGS ON CAMPUS. HE SAID ANY MEETINGS  
WOULD VIOLATE THE RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT AND THAT THE SRC WOULD

BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM SUCH MEETINGS. IT WAS AT THE SAME TIME THAT NKABINDE ASKED BENGU, WHO HAS ACTED AS AN INTERMEDIARY DURING EARLIER INCIDENTS, TO NAME STUDENTS WHO HAD COMPLAINED OR BEEN ACTIVE IN THE PROTEST RALLIES. BENGU REFUSED TO COMPLY AND THEN RESIGNED, BECAUSE, AS HE TOLD US, HE COULD NOT GO AGAINST HIS PRINCIPLES. THE UNIVERSITY ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION IN WRITING IN 15 MINUTES, AND IT WILS TAKE EFFECT THE END OF AUGUST.

2. THE UNIVERSITY'S PREDOMINANTLY AFRIKAANS COUNCIL HAD ATTEMPTED TO FORCE BENGU'S RESIGNATION LAST YEAR OVER HIS INKATHA POSITION, BUT BENGU HAD RESISTED THEIR PRESSURE AND THEY EVENTUALLY BACKED DOWN (REF A). HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR IF HIS RESIGNATION WAS ENTIRELY PROMPTED BY NKABINDE AND THE COUNCIL OR WAS DONE FOR HIS OWN REASONS. HE TOLD A REPORTER A FEW WEEKS AGO HE WAS FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH NKABINDE AND HE WAS CONTEMPLATING RESIGNING. HOWEVER OSCAR DHLOMO, KWAZULU EDUCATION MINISTER, TOLD BPAO THAT BENGU HAD PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED AN OFFER FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES TO HEAD ITS AFRICAN DESK BEGINNING IN AUGUST. THUS IT IS POSSIBLE BENGU'S ACTION WAS NOT AS PRECIPITATE AS IT MIGHT APPEAR.

3. BENGU'S RESIGNATION WILL LIKELY FURTHER DISTURB STUDENTS AND RESULT IN INCREASED TENSIONS ON AN ALREADY VOLATILE CAMPUS. BY ELIMINATING THE STUDENT'S MOST TRUSTED INTERLOCUTOR WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADMINISTRATION AT A TIME WHEN NKABINDE'S INKREASINGLY HEAVY-HANDED TACTICS ARE FUELING STUDENT UNREST, THERE IS AN INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF A MISUNDERSTANDING LEADING TO FURTHER DISTURBANCES. FUGIT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DURBAN00331  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780232-0663  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 78 DURBAN A-29, 78 DURBAN 255  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ZULULAND UNIVERSITY DEAN OF STUDENTS (AND INKATHA SECRETARY-GENERAL) RESIGNS  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014